

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 020905Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1365

AMEMBASSY KABUL

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7079

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF

SUBJ: PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 7037

SUMMARY: BHUTTO DISCUSSED PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS PUBLICLY FOR FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL MONTHS. HE STATED THAT GOP HAD TRIED ITS BEST TO IMPROVE TIEMS AND CALLED ON GOA NOT TO INTERFERE IN PAK INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND TO ACCEPT DURAND LINE. ASKED ABOUT IMPACT OF PANJSHER INCIDENT ON PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS, MFA OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT WAS COMPLETELY UP TO GOA. HE DESCRIBED GOP POSITION AS REACTIVE TO AFGHAN MOVES AND TERMED GOA ALLEGATIONS OF PAK COOMPLICITY "UTTER RUBBISH". DUALY ACCREDITED AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD US IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION IN TALKING TO AFGHAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER THAT GOA WAS THOROUGHLY ALARMED BY IMPLICATIONS OF PANJSHER INCIDENT. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF PAK-AFGHAN

RELATIONS IN SEVERAL MONTHS IN COURTS IMPROMPTU
LAHORE PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 1, PRIME MINISTER
BHUTTO REPORTEDLY CALLED ON GOA NOT TO INTERFERE
IN PAK INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND URGED IT TO ACCEPT IN-
VIOLABILITY OF DURAND LINE. ACCORDING PRESS
ACCOUNTS, BHUTTO SAID PAKISTAN HAD TRIED ITS BEST
TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN AND WISHED IT
ALL HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY. AFGHANS, HE SAID,
WERE PAKISTAN'S NEIGHBORS AND MUSLIM BROTHERS AND
PAKISTAN WANTED THEM TO HAVE THEIR CONSTITUTION.
BUT SOMEHOW HE NOTED, THEY SUSPECT PAKISTAN OF
HAVING A HAND IN WHATEVER HAPPENED IN THEIR COUNTRY.
FACT WAS THAT AFGHANISTAN HAD BEEN INTERFERING IN
PAK AFFAIRS. PAKISTAN HAD TOLERATED THIS WITH
GREAT PATIENCE. HE HOPED THAT BETTER SENSE WOULD
PREVAIL IN AFGHANISTAN AND THAT IT WOULD NOT LOSE
ANY OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN.

2. DISCUSSING AFGHANISTAN'S LAND-LOCKED GEOGRAPHICAL
POSITION, BHUTTO REPORTEDLY STATED THAT PAKISTAN HAD
GIVEN GOA VERY LIBERAL TRANSIT FACILITIES DESPITE
ITS HOSTILE ATTITUDE. HE SAID PAKISTAN DOES THIS
FOR GOODWILL, GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS AND HISTORI-
CAL TIES, NOT FOR ANY ADVANTAGE OF ITS OWN. HE RE-
GRETTED THAT AFGHANISTAN WAS NOT HAPPY WITH THE
ARRANGEMENT AND WAS SEEKING OTHER TRANSIT ROUTES
THROUGH IRAN AND USSR. HE SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY
IF THEY GOT THESE ROUTES THOUGH THEY WOULD TAKE LONG
TIME TO COMPLETE AND WOULD BE MORE EXPENSIVE THAN
PRESENT ROUTES THROUGH PAKISTAN.

3. BHUTTO APPARENTLY MADE NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF
RECENT GOA ALLEGATIONS OF PAK COMPLICITY IN PANJSHER
VIOLENCE. DISCUSSING THIS INCIDENT WITH POL COUN-
SELOR SAME DAY, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (AFGHANISTAN)
MANSUR AHMED NOT UNEXPECTEDLY TERMED THESE ALLEGA-
TIONS "UTTER RUBBISH". ECHOING BHUTTO, HE SAID
GOA ALMOST AUTOMATICALLY BLAMED PAKS FOR ANY TROUBLE.
HE RECALLED WHAT HE SAID WAS HISTORY OF DISCONTENT
OF MOUNTAIN TAJIKS OF PANJSHER VALLEY WITH KABUL
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AUTHORITIES AND NOTED INTER ALIA THAT AREA WAS FAR
TOO REMOTE FROM PAKISTAN TO ALLOW ANY PAK INVOLVEMENT.
HE SAID GOP HAD ONLY SKETCHY AND THIRD-HAND ACCOUNTS
OF PANJSHER INCIDENT AND OF OTHER REPORTED RECENT
VIOLENCE IN AFGHANISTAN: THESE ACCORD WITH THOSE
PASSED TO US BY AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR MORRIS AND MAY
IN FACT BE LARGELY BASED ON THEM.

4. ASKED ABOUT IMPACT OF PANJSHER INCIDENT ON PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS, AHMED SAID THAT WAS COMPLETELY UUP TO GOA. GOP'S POSITION, HE MAINTAINED, CONTINUED TO BE REACTIVE. PAKS HAD DELIBERATELY COUCHED THEIR REFUTATION OF AFGHAN ALLEGATION OF COMPLICITY IN RESTRAINED TERMS, DISCARDING PROPOSED HARSHER TEXTS, AND GOP WOULD NOT TAKE THE LEAD IN RAISING TENSION. WHEN POL COUNSELOR NOTED SHARP ANTI-AFGHAN EDITORIAL IN AUG 1 PAKISTAN TIMES, AHMED REJOINED THAT KABUL TIMES HAD PREVIOUS DAY PUBLISHED STRONG ATTACK ON PAKISTAN AND SUGGESTED THAT PAK PAPER'S PIECE HAD BEEN IN REACTION TO IT. (APP STORY IN TODAY'S PRESS REPORTS THAT AFGHAN GUERILLAS HAVE TAKEN TO HILLS FOLLOWING ATTACK BY 700 OF THEM AGAINST GOA INSTALLATIONS AND OFFICES IN PANJSHER. IT ALLEGED RIFT BETWEEN AFGHAN ARMY AND AIR FORCE IS PUTTING DOWN REBILLION.)

5. IN OTHER COMMENTS ON PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS, .AHMED EXPRESSED REGRET THAT GOA HAD DECLINED TO AGREE TO PAK-PROSED EXPANSION OF JUNE 10 AGREEMENT BARRING DIRECT AD HOMINEM PROPAGANDA. ACCORDING TO AHMED, PAKS HAD SUGGESTED THAT COMMENTS WHICH COULD BE READ AS ATTACKS ON NATIONAL LEADERS (E.G., "FULERS OF PAKISTAN, WHO ARE AGENTS OF COLONIALISM") AS WELL AS DIRECT ATTACKS SHOULD BE RULED OUT. HE SAID AFGHAN PROPAGANDA CONTINUED AT A HIGH PITCH, TERMING IT MUCH STRONGER THAN PAKISTAN OUTPUT. COMMENTING ON PRESIDENT DAUD'S JESHYN SPEECH, AHMED NOTED THAT UNLIKE LAST YEAR'S , IN WHICH DAUD HAD MENTIONED GOA RELATIONS WITH SEVERAL FOREIGN COUNTRIES, PAKISTAN ALONE HAD BEEN SINGLED OUT. HE SAID THAT PAK MONITOR LISTENING TO SPEECH HAD REPORTED THAT DAUD HAD CALLED CONFIDENTIAL

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FOR THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PUSTUN AND BALUCHI PEOPLE RATHER THAN FOR RESTORATION OF THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS AS CARRIED IN PUBLISHED VERSION. MFA WAS CHECKING TAPES OF SPEECH. (CAN EMBASSY KABUL THRO ANY LIGHT ON THIS?)

6. IN MEETING WITH EMBOFFS, AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR MORRIS SAID THAT IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION IN TALKING TO GOA DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAHID ABDULLAH (REFTEL) THAT GOA WAS THOROUGHLY ALARMED (1) THAT PREPARATIONS FOR PANJSHER VIOLENCE COULD HAVE GONE AS FAR AS THEY HAD WITHOUT GOA BECOMING AWARE OF THEM AND (2) BYIMPLICATION THAT THERE WAS IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN KABUL ITSELF WAITING FOR SIGNAL TO JOIN UPRISING. THE GOA, MORRIS SAID, SUSPECTS

THAT IT HAD ONLY DISCOVERED THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG.
HE DECLINED TO ENTER INTO SPECULATION AS TO WHAT THIS
MIGHT MEAN FOR PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS.
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